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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
SSO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /120 W
----------065120 202203Z /75
Z 202132Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0148
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00991

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, XF
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON UNIFIL

REF: USUN 978

1. OFFICIALS IN THE UN SECRETARIAT ARE ENGAGED IN CONSULTATIONS TO DETERMINE WHICH NATIONS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL. USYG URQUHART INFORMS US THAT ONLY FRANCE AND NORWAY HAVE GIVEN UN FIRM COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE. FRANCE IS PREPARED TO SEND IN 400 PARATROOPERS PLUS HELICOPTERS WITHIN 24 HOURS. NORWAY IS READY TO SEND A UNIT WITHIN TEN DAYS (THEY HAVE ALSO UNDERLINED TO USUN THEIR READINESS TO TAKE PART.)

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2. SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA UN PERMREPS HAVE BOTH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EXTENT TO WHICH UNIFIL WOULD HAVE TO ENGAGE ACTIVELY IN FIGHTING, ESPECIALLY IN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE PLO. UN OFFICIALS HAVE REVIEWED THE ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE NATURE OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE. URQUHART BELIEVES SWEDEN'S CONCERNS HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY SATISFIED TO PERMIT A QUICK GOS DECISION TO ALLOW THE UNEF COMPANY

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TO PROCEED TO LEBANON AS PLANNED. HE IS LESS CERTAIN ABOUT AUSTRIA. WALDHEIM HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY WITH AUSTRIAN FM. AUSTRIANS ARE UNDER CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC PRESSURE AS RESULT OF KREISKY STATEMENTS LAST WEEK.

3. ROMANIA HAS INFORMED UN IT WILL NOT TAKE PART. POLAND HAD EARLIER ALSO INDICATED IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. IN URQUHART'S VIEW, NO EE STATE WILL PARTICIPATE. SECRETARIAT IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM BOLIVIA, NEPAL AND SENEGAL RE CONTRIBUTION OF UNITS, AND FROM UK RE LOGISTICS SUPPORT.

4. URQUHART BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE BEFORE THE SECRETARIAT CAN APPROACH ISRAEL AND LEBANON ON THAT ASPECT OF THE OPERATION. COUNCIL CAN, OF COURSE, ACT ONLY ONCE NATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION HAVE RESPONDED TO UN REQUESTS.

5. URQUHART ALSO REVIEWED WITH US SIILASVUO'S REPORT ON HIS MARCH 20 DISCUSSION WITH WEIZMAN AND GUR. WHILE ESSENTIALLY COVERING THE SAME POINTS REPORTED IN JERUSALEM 802, SIILASVUO DID NOT REPORT TO UN THAT ISRAELIS HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW UN FORCES TO ENTER LEBANON VIA SURFACE ROUTE ACROSS THE ISRAELI BORDER.

6. FOR STOCKHOKM AND VIENNA: DEPARTMENT IS PASSING TO
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YOU THE BACKGROUND ON THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IF YOU ARE ASKED BY SWEDISH OR AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR DESCRIPTION OF UNIFIL MANDATE, YOU SHOULD HIGHLIGHT ITS NON-OFFENSIVE CHARACTER. PARA 4D OF THE SYG'S REPORT STATES: QUOTE THE FORCE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH WEAPONS OF A DEFENSIVE CHARACTER. IT SHALL NOT USE FORCE EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE. SELF-DEFENSE WOULD INCLUDE RESISTANCE TO ATTEMPTS BY FORCEFUL MEANS TO PREVENT IT FROM DISCHARGING ITS DUTIES UNDER THE MAN-DATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE FORCE WILL PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT WILL TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. END QUOTE. LEONARD

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